



BENDS

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BENDS



SÉLECTION OFFICIELLE
UN CERTAIN REGARD
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

SHADOW PUPPET PRODUCTIONS LIMITED AND THE FILM DEVELOPMENT FUND OF HONG KONG PRESENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH A PRIORI IMAGE, BAGO PICTURES, LOVE STREAMS AGNES B. PRODUCTIONS, POST PRODUCTION OFFICE AND TOMSON INTERNATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT DISTRIBUTION LTD
A BENDS LIMITED PRODUCTION "BENDS" 《過界》 STARRING CARINA LAU, CHEN KUN SCREENPLAY DEVELOPED BY THE BINGER FILMLAB, AMSTERDAM MUSIC BY PATRICK JONSSON COSTUME DESIGNER MIRIAM CHAN EDITOR FLORA LAU, ALEXIS DOS SANTOS AND AQ LEE
PRODUCTION DESIGNER JEAN TSOI DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CHRISTOPHER DOYLE A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO WILLIAM CHANG CO-PRODUCERS AGNES B, CHRISTOPHE AUDEGUIS AND YVONNE CHUANG EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ALBERT TONG PRODUCED BY NANSUN SHI, YU TSANG, MELISSA LEE AND KEN HUI WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY FLORA LAU DISTRIBUTED BY DISTRIBUTION WORKSHOP (HK) LIMITED





ABOUT THE FILM

BENDS straddles the Hong Kong-Shenzhen border and tells the story of ANNA, an affluent housewife and FAI, her chauffeur, and their unexpected friendship as they each negotiate the pressures of Hong Kong life and the city's increasingly complex relationship to mainland China. Fai is struggling to find a way to bring his pregnant wife and young daughter over the Hong Kong border from Shenzhen to give birth to their second child, even though he crosses the border easily every day working as a chauffeur for Anna. Anna, in contrast, is struggling to keep up the facade of her ostentatious lifestyle into which she has married, after the sudden disappearance of her husband amid financial turmoil. Their two lives collide in a common space, the car.





PRODUCTION NOTES

BEERDS

SHOOT LOCATION: Hong Kong
TIMELINE: Preproduction, July/August 2012
Principal Photography, September/October 2012 (23 days)
Completion, Spring 2013
PREMIERE: Cannes Film Festival 2013, Un Certain Regard (Official Selection)
LANGUAGE: Cantonese & Mandarin
FORMAT: HD, Colour
LENGTH: 92 minutes



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THE CAST

ANNA - Lead Female Role **Carina Lau** 劉嘉玲

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY:

Detective Dee and the Mystery Phantom Flame

Let the Bullets Fly

2046

Flowers of Shanghai

Ashes of Time

Days of Being Wild



FAI - Lead Male Role **Chen Kun** 陳坤

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY:

Painted Skin I & II,

Rest On Your Shoulder,

Flying Swords of Dragon Gate 3D

Let the Bullets Fly

Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress



THE CREW

Writer/Director **Flora Lau** 劉韻文



Flora was born and raised in Hong Kong. She graduated from Columbia University in New York and later attended London Film School where she graduated as a director.

Her thesis film, *Dry Rain*, won the Best Film Award in the Hong Kong Fresh Wave Short Film Competition at the 33rd Hong Kong International Film Festival. Flora is an alumnus of the 8th Berlinale Talent Campus 2010 and was selected by Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival to participate at CPH DOX:LAB 2012. Her commissioned medium length documentary "Start From Zero" premiered at Visions du Reel International Film Festival 2013.

Flora was invited to develop the feature script for *Bends* at the prestigious Writers Lab of the Binger Film Lab 2011 in the Netherlands. *Bends* was selected for the Hong Kong Asia Financing Forum (HAF) 2011 and Paris Project 2012. *Bends* is Flora's feature directorial debut.

Cinematographer **Christopher Doyle** (H.K.S.C.) 杜可風



Christopher Doyle has shot some of the most memorable recent films of world cinema. Born and raised in Sydney, Australia, Mr. Doyle's love of Asian cultures developed in his youth, through extensive reading of Japanese literature. When he turned 18, he joined the merchant navy and sailed the world for two years. He landed in Israel and then moved on to India, where he became an oil driller. Eventually, he landed in Taiwan, to study Chinese.

Despite not having a credit to his name, director Edward Yang trusted him enough to shoot *That Day on the Beach*. Since then, he has been director of photography on over 50 films. His longtime collaboration with director Wong Kar-wai has brought Mr. Doyle three Hong Kong Film Awards, for *Days of Being Wild*, *Ashes of Time*, and *Fallen Angels*; and three Golden Horse Awards, for *Ashes of Time*, *Happy Together*, and *In the Mood for Love*. Mr. Doyle's other features include Kei Shu's *Soul*, which brought him his first Hong Kong Film Award; Claire Devers' *Noir et blanc*; Chen Kaige's *Temptress Moon*; Gus Van Sant's *Psycho*; Barry Levinson's *Liberty Heights*; Phillip Noyce's *Rabbit-Proof Fence* and *The Quiet American*; and Zhang Yimou's *Hero*, which won the Best Cinematography award from the New York Film Critics Circle. More recently, his work on Gus Van Sant's *Paranoid Park* brought Mr. Doyle the Best Cinematography award from the Boston Society of Film Critics.

A Very Special Thanks To **William Chang Suk Ping** 張叔平



William Chang Suk Ping is a Hong Kong film editor, production designer and art director, and along with cinematographer Christopher Doyle is an important collaborator with Hong Kong film director Wong Kar Wai. He has participated in all of Wong Kar Wai's films. In addition to Wong Kar Wai, William Chang also has collaborated with various Hong Kong film directors such as Stanley Kwan, Patrick Tam Kar Ming,

Yim Ho and Tsui Hark. His credits as Production Designer include: *The Grandmasters*, *Everlasting Regret*, *Eros*, *2046*, *Lan Yu*, *In The Mood For Love*, *Happy Together*, *Fallen Angels*, *Chungking Express*, *Ashes of Time*, *Days of Being Wild*. William Chang is known for his nostalgic mood in art directing and frequent use of improvisation and split narratives in film editing.

Producer **Nansun Shi** 施南生



Nansun Shi has been named one of the 50 most influential indie filmmakers/players around the world by Variety. In 1984, Nansun and her husband Tsui Hark founded an independent production company, Film Workshop, which has produced numerous internationally-acclaimed box office successes. Nansun has served on the jury of the 57th Berlin International Film Festival in 2007. She was also a Jury member at the 64th Cannes International Film Festival in 2011. Today, apart from being the Executive Director of Film Workshop and a Board member of Bona Film Group, Nansun is also the Chairman of Distribution Workshop; an international sales agent for Asian films which is based in Hong Kong.

Producer **Melissa Lee** 李敏怡



Melissa Lee has produced two award winning feature films, Dear Lemon Lima (2009), co-starring Academy Award winner Melissa Leo, and 2011 Sundance Audience Award winner, Circumstance (2011). In addition to Bends, Melissa is currently in development on Anthony Ng's Shanghai romance, The Maglev Story (Sundance Producing Lab 2011, Berlinale Talent Project Market 2012), and is also Managing Director of boutique commercial production house, P.I.G. China. Having grown up in Hong Kong and London, Melissa Lee graduated magna cum laude with a BA in Literature from Harvard University, after which she worked in investment banking with Morgan Stanley. She received her MFA in Producing from University of Southern California. In addition to being a 2011 Sundance Creative Producing Fellow, Melissa was invited to attend the 2012 Rotterdam Lab, the 2012 Berlinale Talent Project Market, and was nominated for a 2012 Independent Spirit Award.

Producer **Yu Tsang** 俞瑋



Born and raised in Hong Kong, Ms. Yu started as a Program Host on Hong Kong Commercial Radio (HKCBC)'s fledgling CR2 channel, eventually becoming Chief Executive of the company. She has been Deputy Chairman since 2004.

During the 80's, her own Me&Amis Productions Company produced various successful media projects from events and stage performances, through to artist management and movie productions.

In 2007 Ms. Yu launched SkyHigh, a joint venture between The Hong Kong Jockey Club, St. James' Settlement and HKCBC providing creative production facilities and training for underprivileged youth. The project continues to operate successfully to the present day.

Producer **Ken Hui** 許志堅



Ken Hui is an independent film and documentary producer. He has been working in video production since 2001 and, at the same time, collaborating with cinematographer, Christopher Doyle. Such experience brought him different opportunities working in diversified media, including TV commercials, music videos, film and documentary, leading to his developing his own production company for independent production, mainly on films and documentaries. He has produced short films, Variable (2008, dir. Wong Wai-kit), The Decisive Moment (2010, dir. Wong Wai-kit), the former of which won the Special Mention in the 13th IFVA Awards and the latter of which won the Best Cinematography Award in the Hong Kong Fresh Wave Short Film Competition 2010, in addition to different international prizes. Ken also produced the documentaries, My Way (2010, dir. Cheuk Cheung) and Fish Story (2011, dir. Wong Siu-pong). Both were selected for the 2010 and 2011 Annual Thematic Production in CNEX Documentary Film Festival.

Executive Producer **Albert Tong** 湯珈鉞



Albert Tong is the Vice-Chairman & Executive Director of the Board of Director of Tomson Group Limited, Executive Director of Rivera (Holdings) Limited, Director of Tomson (China) Limited, Executive Director of Tomson (Hong Kong) Films Company Limited, and the Director of Tomson International Entertainment Company Limited. As the founding member of Centum Charitas Foundation, Albert is also the Vice Chairman of the charity foundation. The youngest son of Tomson Group Limited's founder Tang Jun-nian and renowned Chinese actress and movie producer Hsu Feng, Albert has been a regular at movie sets since a tender age, and he has also played a part in the movies produced by his mother. Recent years have seen Albert's active participation in the film industry and peripheral businesses, and in 2010 he founded Tomson International Entertainment Distribution Limited, which has not only distributed numerous acclaimed foreign language movies, but has also been offering substantial support and capital for various Chinese movies, including Starry Starry Night, in collaboration with Huayi Brothers Media Corporation in 2010. The film was a box-office success in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, garnering nominations and awards along the way.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

To a certain extent, we are all confined by our place in society. In extreme cases, this leads to desperate measures: some struggle to attain the means to liberate themselves from these limitations, while others put up pretense in order to live within a specific social hierarchy.

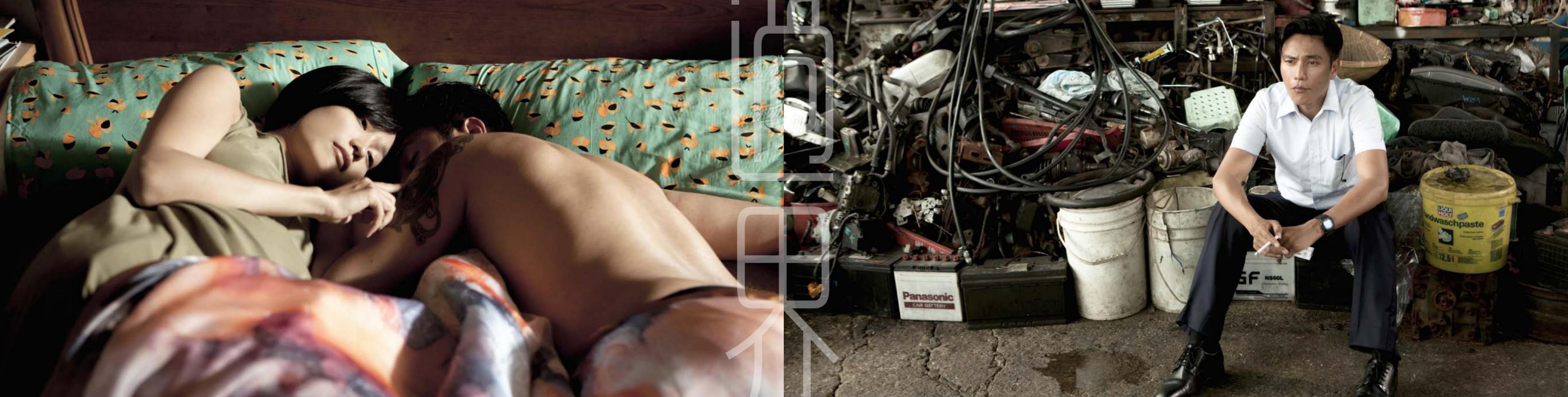
BENDS tells the stories of Fai and Anna, two characters living in opposite worlds. My intention is to portray a microcosm of Hong Kong by interweaving two seemingly different stories together. By comparing the same emotions shared by the two characters, while contrasting their realities of life, I hope to bring out a discussion of identity in society. The car's intimate setting further explores the interaction of the two worlds, allowing them to let down their guard, bear their vulnerability, and share parts of their lives with each other that they would not otherwise share in other spaces.

I am using two distinctively diverse geographic locations, Hong Kong and Shenzhen, as the backdrop of my story to reflect Hong Kong's complex relationship with the mainland. Like the relationship of the two characters, the two cities are distinctive, yet dependent on each other.

In situating the characters' everyday lives, I also want to portray the normal, everyday, yet vibrant side of Hong Kong - a seemingly hectic but orderly physical exterior that contrasts with the emotional confinement felt by the characters.











DISTRIBUTION
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